

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A development department stores physical characteristic data concerning a product to be manufactured, such as shape and CAD data, in a database. Cost factor data are provided from a plurality of potential makers of the product. The cost factor data is stored in a database. Manufacturing costs are calculated for the respective makers based on the cost factor data, and then displayed. The provided information, the cost factor data stored in the databases, and the estimated manufacturing costs can be browsed through a network. Further, the cost factor data stored in the databases can be updated by the makers through the network.

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